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MARCH 1986

AMERICAN CITY & COUNTY

The Magic of Software

Long Distance Water Rights

Fine Tuning the Pension Machine

Profile of Andy Young

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BPA

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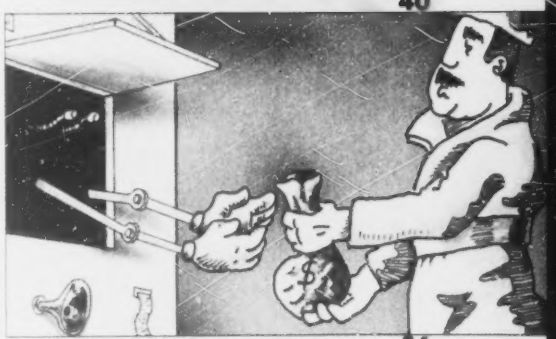

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About the Cover

The magic of software is no sleight-of-hand trick performed only by computer experts and hackers. Today's local government officials have a myriad of cost-effective and productivity-improving options for software to run their computer systems. Many of these applications are outlined beginning on page 28. (Photograph by Jeff Licata of Atlanta.)

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MUNICIPAL COST INDEXES

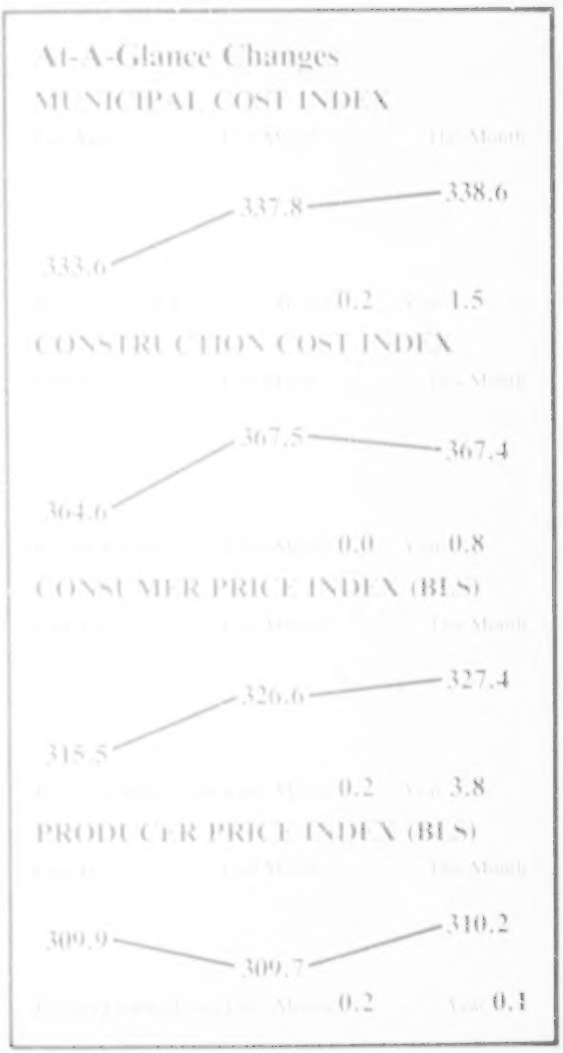
Due to fairly steady building and construction costs this month, the *Construction Cost Index* reported a minute decline of .1 to 367.4. The *Producer Price Index*, for the third consecutive month, increased significantly, as did the *Consumer Price Index*, which rose by 0.2 percent to 327.4.

Posting the biggest gain in this month's market basket was LP gas, which rose by 9.2 percent, followed by residual fuel at 7.8 percent and diesel fuel at 2.7 percent. Declining by the biggest margin was natural gas. Passenger cars, mixed fertilizers and asphalt roofing also reported slight drops for the month.

— *Terri Stone*

THIS MONTH'S MARKETBASKET

	Current Index	Percent Change From: Last Month	Last Year
Air Conditioners	147.5	0.0	1.8
Apparel	183.3	0.1	1.9
Asphalt Roofing	406.3	0.6	1.4
Books	136.6	0.4	4.9
Chemicals, Industrial	335.1	0.1	0.1
Coal	540.1	0.2	1.4
Concrete Products	324.3	0.2	0.1
Construction Machinery	363.6	0.0	1.6
Diesel Fuel	709.8	2.7	8.7
Electric Components	198.5	0.4	0.7
Electric Lamps	346.8	0.3	1.8
Electric Power	451.8	0.3	2.5
Engines, I.C.	347.1	0.1	2.5
Fans, Blowers	361.1	0.4	2.7
Fertilizers, Mixed	255.0	0.9	2.6
Floor Coverings	188.9	0.2	2.2
Flow Instruments	232.7	0.1	131.8
Footwear	258.9	0.1	2.3
Foundry Products	363.4	0.1	0.4
Fuel Oil No. 2	709.8	2.7	8.7
Furniture	313.7	0.8	4.7
Gasoline	569.9	0.3	3.0
Generator Sets	351.0	0.0	2.6
Glass	229.6	0.2	8.6
Glass Containers	387.0	0.0	6.3
Gypsum Products	356.7	2.1	7.9
Hardware	308.4	0.4	2.5
Heating Equipment	262.2	0.3	2.3
HVAC Controls	126.6	0.5	1.4
LP Gas	621.2	9.2	1.5
Lubricants	362.8	0.4	0.5
Lumber	325.2	0.6	N/A
Metal Fabrications	315.4	0.0	0.7
Millwork	312.1	0.0	0.2
Motor Vehicle Parts	351.0	0.0	2.6
Mowers	262.1	0.0	0.8
Natural Gas	1328.3	1.7	6.2
Office Machines	153.2	0.6	0.3
Paint	278.4	0.4	0.2
Paper	301.2	0.1	1.5
Passenger Cars	232.5	0.9	3.5
Plumbing Fixtures	314.7	0.1	1.7
Plywood	230.9	0.3	2.1
Portland Cement	356.5	0.2	0.6
Residual Fuel	955.2	7.8	15.6
Sand, Gravel	310.2	0.1	4.3
Sanitary Papers	380.0	0.0	2.2
Soaps, Detergents	275.4	0.0	1.1
Sporting Goods	203.8	0.1	1.0
Steel Mill Products	365.2	0.0	0.7
Struc. Clay Products	300	0.1	3.6
Switchgear	281.7	0.1	1.1
Tires, Tubes	235.8	0.3	0.5
Transformers	233.3	0.6	1.5
Trucks	335.2	0.0	8.5
Valves	105.3	0.2	2.4
Wire, Cable	205.3	0.0	2.0
Wiring Devices	364.2	0.4	1.3



QUARTERLY MUNICIPAL TRENDS

	Current Level	Percent Change From: Last Qtr.	Last Year
Receipts	570.7B	2.3	8.8
Federal Grants	100.4B	2.3	9.0
Durable Purchases	15.2B	1.3	6.3
Consumables	39.0B	0.3	5.7
Services	390.2B	2.0	8.2
Structures	54.6B	9.0	15.7
Salaries, Wages	283.4B	1.8	7.8
Surplus	49.6B	1.4	4.2
Employment	13.534M	0.5	1.8